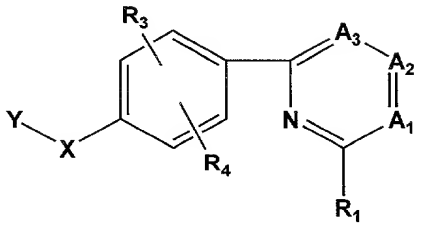
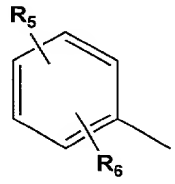
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the Formula **I**:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein:

Y is  or R_7,

provided that when Y is R_7, R_1 is aminocarbonyl;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido,

acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R_7 is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

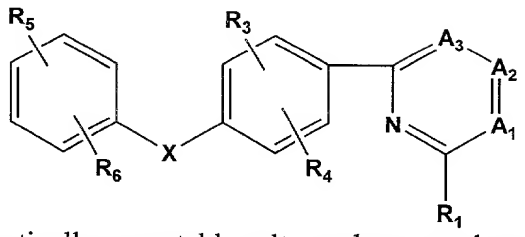
X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2 when Y is other than R_7; or

X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent when Y is R_7;

with the provisos that:

1) R_2 is not methoxy if R_5 is trifluoromethyl, R_6 is H, X is O and R_1 is SO_2CH_2Ph;
2) R_2 is not NH_2 if R_1 is methylthio, X is O and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N;
3) R_2 is not methyl if R_1 is SO_2R_8, wherein R_8 is methylphenyl, R_3 and R_4 are methoxy, X is S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N;
4) R_2 is not CCl_3 if R_1 is CCl_3, X is S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N; or
5) R_1 and R_2 are not both NH_2 if X is O or S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N.

2. A compound having the Formula **II**:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol; and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl,

arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2;

with the provisos that:

1) R_2 is not methoxy if R_5 is trifluoromethyl, R_6 is H, X is O and R_1 is SO_2CH_2Ph;
2) R_2 is not NH_2 if R_1 is methylthio, X is O and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N;
3) R_2 is not methyl if R_1 is SO_2R_8, wherein R_8 is methylphenyl, R_3 and R_4 are methoxy, X is S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N;
4) R_2 is not CCl_3 if R_1 is CCl_3, X is S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N; or
5) R_1 and R_2 are not both NH_2 if X is O or S and two of A_1, A_2 and A_3 are N.

3. The compound of claim 2, wherein A_1, A_2 and A_3 are each CR_2; or A_1 is N and A_2 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_3 is N and A_1 and A_2 are CR_2; or A_2 is N and A_1 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_1 and A_3 are N and A_2 is CR_2.

4. The compound of claim 2, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl optionally substituted by halogen or hydroxy, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, and 5-isoxazolyl, wherein R_8 is as defined in claim 2, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8.

5. The compound of claim 4, wherein R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and

heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, and wherein R_9 is as defined in claim 2.

6. The compound of claim 2, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl.

8. The compound of claim 2, wherein R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen and R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro.

10. The compound of claim 2, wherein X is O or S.

11. The compound of claim 10, wherein X is O.

12. The compound of claim 2, wherein R_2 is hydrogen, X is O or S and R_1 is aminocarbonyl.

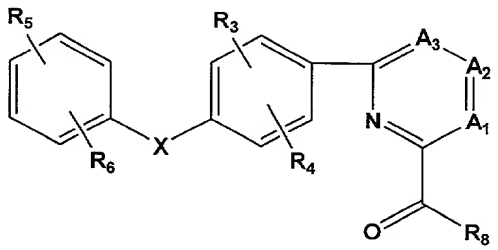
13. The compound of claim 2, wherein A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_1 and A_3 are each CH.

14. The compound of claim 2, wherein A_1 is N, A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_3 is CH.

15. The compound of claim 2, wherein A_3 is N, A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_1 is CH.

16. The compound of claim 2, wherein A_2 is N, A_1 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H, and A_3 is CH.

17. The compound of claim 2, having the Formula **III:**



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein;

A_1-A_3, R_2-R_6, R_8 and X are as defined in claim 2.

18. The compound of claim 17, wherein A_1, A_2 and A_3 are each CR_2; or A_1 is N and A_2 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_3 is N and A_1 and A_2 are CR_2; or A_2 is N and A_1 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_1 and A_3 are N and A_2 is CR_2.

19. The compound of claim 17, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino.

20. The compound of claim 19, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl.

21. The compound of claim 17, wherein R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

22. The compound of claim 21, wherein R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen and R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro.

23. The compound of claim 17, wherein R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, and heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8, and wherein R_9 is as defined in claim 2.

24. The compound of claim 17, wherein X is O or S.

25. The compound of claim 24, wherein X is O.

26. The compound of claim 17, wherein

X is O;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are each CR_2; or A_1 is N and A_2 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_3 is N and A_1 and A_2 are CR_2; or A_2 is N and A_1 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_1 and A_3 are N and A_2 is CR_2; wherein

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl, and aminocarbonyl;

R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen;

R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro; and

R_8 is amino.

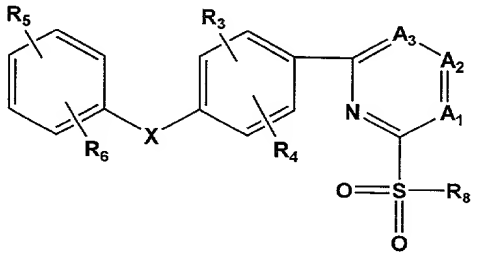
27. The compound of claim 17, wherein A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_1 and A_3 are each CH.

28. The compound of claim 17, wherein A_1 is N, A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_3 is CH.

29. The compound of claim 17, wherein A_3 is N, A_2 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H and A_1 is CH.

30. The compound of claim 17, wherein A_2 is N, A_1 is CR_2, wherein R_2 is other than H, and A_3 is CH.

31. The compound of claim 2, having Formula IV:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof; wherein:

A_1-A_3, R_2-R_6, and X are as defined in claim 2 and

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted.

32. The compound of claim 31, wherein A_1, A_2 and A_3 are each CR_2; or A_1 is N and A_2 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_3 is N and A_1 and A_2 are CR_2; or

A_2 is N and A_1 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_1 and A_3 are N and A_2 is CR_2, and R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aminoalkyl, amino, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino.

33. The compound of claim 32, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl.

34. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

35. The compound of claim 34, wherein R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen and R_5 and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen, haloalkyl, and nitro.

36. The compound of claim 31, wherein R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, and heterocycloalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted.

37. The compound of claim 31, wherein X is O or S.

38. The compound of claim 37, wherein X is O.

39. A compound of claim 2, wherein said compound is:
4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;
4-[4-(4-nitrophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;
4-[4-(4-methoxyphenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;
4-[4-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

4-[4-(3-chloro-2-cyanophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

4-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

4-[4-(2,4-difluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

4-[4-(2-chloro-4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

1-[4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-yl]-ethanone;

2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-4-carboxamide;

2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methylpyrimidine;

2-methyl-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid sodium salt;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid methylamide;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid dimethylamide;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid *tert*-butylamide;

2-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-4-carboxamide;

2-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-4-carboxylic acid;

2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)-6-(dimethylamino)pyrimidine-4-carboxylic acid dimethylamide;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid 2-hydroxyethylamide;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid hydroxymethyleneamide;

2-(2-hydroxyprop-2-yl)-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

4-[4-(2,4-difluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxylic acid 2-morpholin-4-yl-ethyl amide;

2-(4,5-dihydro-1H-imidazol-2-yl)-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]-pyrimidine;

2-(3-pyrazolyl)-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

2-(5-isoxazolyl)-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

2-(1-methyl-3-pyrazolyl)-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

2-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine-4-carboxylic acid methylamide;

3-dimethylamino-1-{4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl}pyrimidin-2-yl]propenone;

2-thiomethyl-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

2-methanesulfonyl-4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyrimidine;

2-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-pyrimidine;

4-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)-3-fluorophenyl]pyrimidine-2-carboxamide;

2-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)-3-fluorophenyl]pyrimidine-4-carboxamide;

2-methyl-6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine;

6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide;

2-methyl-6-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine;

6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxylic acid;

6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxylic acid methylamide;

6-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-[4-(2,4-difluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-[4-(4-chloro-2-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)-3-fluorophenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-[4-(4-trifluoromethylphenoxy)phenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide;

3,5-diamino-6-(4-phenoxyphenyl)pyrazine-2-carboxamide; or

2-[4-(4-nitrophenoxy)phenyl]-4-methyl-[1,3,5]-triazine,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

40. A compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is:

6-[4-(4-fluorophenoxy)phenyl]pyridine carboxylic acid N-piperidinylethylamide;

6-(4-*tert*-butylphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-(4-*n*-butylphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-(4-*i*-propylphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide;

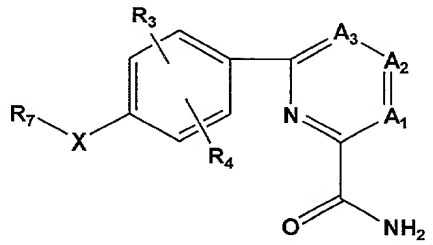
6-(4-thiomethylphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide;

6-(4-ethoxyphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide; or

6-(4-methoxyphenyl)pyridine-2-carboxamide,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

41. The compound of claim 1, having the Formula V:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein;

A_1-A_3, R_2-R_4, and R_7 are as defined in claim 1; and

X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent.

42. The compound of claim 41, wherein A_1, A_2 and A_3 are each CR_2; or A_1 is N and A_2 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_3 is N and A_1 and A_2 are CR_2; or A_2 is N and A_1 and A_3 are CR_2; or A_1 and A_3 are N and A_2 is CR_2.

43. The compound of claim 41, wherein R_7 is a C_{1-6} alkyl optionally substituted with one or more of halogen, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano and alkoxy.

44. The compound of claim 41, wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aminoalkyl and aminocarbonyl.

45. The compound of claim 41, wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, and cyano.

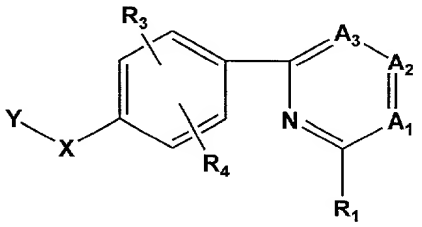
46. The compound of claim 45, wherein R_3 and R_4 are both hydrogen.

47. The compound of claim 41, wherein X is O or S.

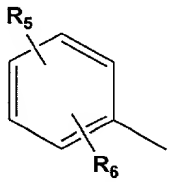
48. The compound of claim 47, wherein X is O.

49. A compound of claim 41, wherein said compound is 6-[(4-trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]pyridine-2-carboxamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof.

50. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the compound of formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Y is 

or R_7, provided that when Y is R_7, R_1 is aminocarbonyl;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R_7 is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

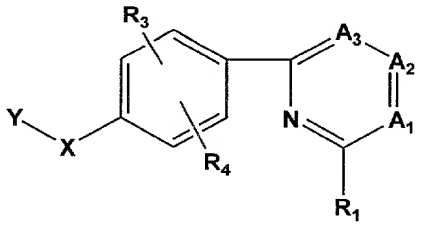
R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2 when Y is other than R_7; or

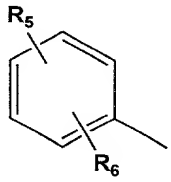
X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent when Y is R_7; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

51. The composition of claim 50, wherein the compound is as claimed in any one of claims 1-49.

52. A method of treating a disorder responsive to the blockade of sodium channels in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Y is 

or R_7,

provided that when Y is R_7, R_1 is aminocarbonyl;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R_7 is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

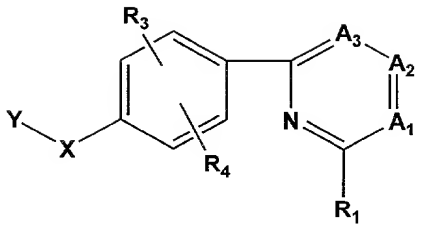
R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2 when Y is other than R_7; or

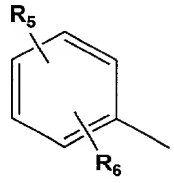
X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent when Y is R_7.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the compound administered is as claimed in any one of the claims 1-49.

54. A method for treating, preventing or ameliorating neuronal loss following global and focal ischemia; treating, preventing or ameliorating neurodegenerative conditions; treating, preventing or ameliorating pain or tinnitus; treating, preventing or ameliorating manic depression; providing local anesthesia; or treating arrhythmias, or treating convulsions, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein:

Y is  or R_7,

provided that when Y is R_7, R_1 is aminocarbonyl;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R_7 is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

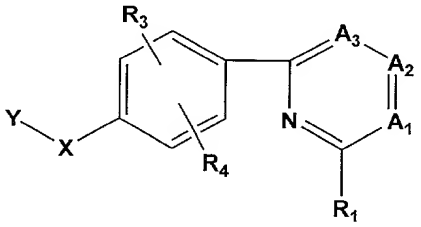
X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2 when Y is other than R_7; or

X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent when Y is R_7.

55. The method of claim 54, wherein the compound administered is as claimed in any one of claims 1-49.

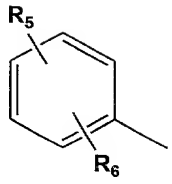
56. The method of claim 54, wherein the method is for treating, preventing or ameliorating pain and said pain is one of neuropathic pain, surgical pain or chronic pain.

57. A method of alleviating or preventing seizure activity in an animal subject, comprising administering to said animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein:

Y is  or R_7,

provided that when Y is R_7, R_1 is aminocarbonyl;

A_1, A_2 and A_3 are independently CR_2 or N, provided that A_1, A_2 and A_3 are not all N at the same time;

R_1 is selected from the group consisting an optionally substituted alkyl, amino, alkylthiol, $C(O)R_8$, SO_2R_8, $OC(O)NH_2$, 2-imidazolinyl, 2-imidazolyl, 3-pyrazolyl, 5-isoxazolyl, and 3-(1,2,4)-triazolyl;

each R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, halogen, hydroxy, cycloalkyl, cyano, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, aralkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonylamino, and aralkylcarbonylamino; or R_1 and R_2 are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a heterocyclic ring;

R_3, R_4, R_5, and R_6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxy, nitro, amino, cyano, amide, carboxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, ureido, acylamino, thiol, acyloxy, azido, alkoxy, carboxy, carbonylamido and alkylthiol;

R_7 is an optionally substituted alkyl;

R_8 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR_9, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, alkenylamino, dialkylaminoalkenyl, dialkylaminoalkylamino, dialkylaminoalkenylamino, alkylaminoalkenyl-amino, hydroxyaminoalkenylamino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkylamino, heterocycloalkylamino, aryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl, arylalkynyl, and arylalkylamino, all of which can be optionally substituted, provided that R_8 is not OR_9 when R_1 is SO_2R_8; wherein

R_9 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, and an alkali metal; and

X is one of O, S, NH, or CH_2 when Y is other than R_7; or

X is one of O, S, NH, CH_2 or absent when Y is R_7.

58. The method of claim 57, wherein the compound administered is as claimed in any one of claims 1-49.